implementing agencies indicates that about 89% of the urban population is reported to have access to water supply facilities as on 31.3.2000. The quality and quantity of water in most of the urban areas is not as per norms. Drinking water crisis also occurs at times in various towns and cities owing to a multitude of factors such as huge resource gap for investment in water sector, poor distribution system, excessive unaccounted for water (UFW), depletion of ground water resources and poor operation and management of water utilities by Urban Local Bodies.

Government of India is making efforts to facilitate reform by the Urban Local Bodies to enable them to access funds required for meeting the water supply needs as well as ensure improved operation and maintenance of water utilities and improved delivery of water supply services through policy level instrument of City Challenge Fund and Pooled Finance Development Fund. It is also advocating the States to make rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye laws.

**Study on Average Fertility Rates**

*420. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the average fertility rate in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any States have launched the two-child norm, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the existing average fertility rate at national level and whether Government would consider adopting any specific approach to slow down the population growth;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government propose to move any Bill on the above subject; and

(g) if so, the stage at which the introduction of the Bill stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Sample Registration System (SRS) conducted each year by the Registrar General of India provides estimates of Total Fertility Rate (TFR). State-wise TFR is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) No State has adopted two-child norm. However, the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi have enacted legislation, according to which no candidate is eligible for contesting elections to Gram Panchayats, Samities, Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporation if he or she has more than two living children.

(d) and (e) According to SRS-1998, the Total Fertility Rate at the national level was 3.2 in 1998.

Government have adopted National Population Policy in February, 2000, which the immediate objective of addressing the unmet needs for contraception, health care, infrastructure and health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. The medium term objective of the policy is to bring the Total Fertility Rate to replacement level of 2.1 by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter-sectoral operational strategies. The long-term objective is to achieve population stabilisation by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

The Policy enumerates 12 strategies alongwith an Action Plan to operationalise these strategies to achieve the goals.

(f) and (g) In view of the comprehensive National Population Policy 2000, which has a holistic approach towards slowing down the growth rate of population for achieving population stabilization in the country, there is no proposal to move any Bill on the above subject.

**Statement**

*Total Fertility Rate 1998*

| S. No. | India and Bigger States | Total Fertility Rate |
|---|---|---|
| | INDIA | 3.2 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2.4 |
| 2. | Assam | 3.2 |
| 3. | Bihar | 4.3 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 3.0 |
| 5. | Haryana | 3.3 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 2.4 |
| 7. | Kerala | 1.8 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 3.9 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 2.7 |
| 10. | Orissa | 2.9 |
| 11. | Punjab | 2.6 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 4.1 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 2.0 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 4.6 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 2.4 |

SOURCE: Sample Registration System 1998. Registrar General of India.